

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANTIA 12114 271903Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 DHA-02 L-03 H-01 ARAE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2743

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 12114

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: CASC SHUM CI
SUBJECT: RAFAEL GONZALEZ VERDUGO
IREF: A) STATE 310338 B) SANTIAGO 12086

1. ITALIAN CHARGE DE VERGOTTINI TOLD US DEC 27 THAT SOME DAYS BEFORE HE HAD ASKED FONMINISTRY DIRECTOR GENERAL LAVIN ABOUT ALLOWING GONZALEZ TO DEPART. IN THE PAST LAVIN AND OTHER GOC OFFICIALS HAD ALWAYS GIVEN HIM A FLAT NEGATIVE. THIS TIME LAVIN SAID SOMETHING ABOUT TAKING A LOOK; THAT WAS THE BASIS FOR THE ITALIAN'S APPROACH TO THE DEPARTMENT (REF A) REPORTING AN APPARENT SOFTENING OF THE CHILEAN POSITION. LAVIN DID NOT FOLLOW UP WITH DE VERGOTTINI, DESPITE AN OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO WHEN THEY TALKED DEC 24 ABOUT MRS GONZALEZ. ACCORDINGLY DE VERGOTTINI HAS NOT GLUMLY RETURNED TO THE VIEW THAT THERE HAS BEEN NO CHANGE IN THE CHILEAN POSITION.

2. DE VERGOTTINI HAS ARRANGED DEC 28 MEETING WITH EMBOFF AND HEAD OF LOCAL ICEM OFFICE. THE LATTER HAS BEEN TRYING TO DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR A MULTILATERAL DEMARCHE TO THE GOC BEFORE NEW YEAR'S DAY. RE-FERRING TO THE NOVEMBER MASS RELEASE OF DETAINEES, AND THE CORVALAN-BUKOVSKY EXCHANGE, THE IDEA WOULD BE TO URGE THE GOC TO THROW IN OTHER OUTSTANDING CASES. DE VERGOTTINI AND THE ICEM REP MIGHT ASK THE EMBASSY TO JOIN ON RELEASING GONZALEZ. WE SHALL REPORT FURTHER AS APPROPRIATE.
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PAGE 02 SANTIA 12114 271903Z

3. ON MRS GONZALEZ (REF B), DE VERGOTTINI TOLD US THAT SHE WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL ON AN EMERGENCY BASIS EVENING OF DECEMBER 26, MISCARRIED, AND WAS RETURNED TO THE ITALIAN CHANCERY AN HOUR LATER WITHOUT REPERCUSSIONS. DE VERGOTTINI ACCOMPANIED HER, AND HAD NO PROBLEM WITH THE GOC.

POPPER

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